

## UNITY CANDLE CEREMONY



The Unity Candle ceremony involves the same principles of the Unity Sand and Unity Water ceremonies: all three involve the co-mingling of elements to represent the new unity/relationship that the spouses have with each other.

The uniqueness of using candles is that they are symbols of light and warmth, two aspects that each spouse brings to the marriage, and together establish a unified source of light and warmth in their new relationship which they then take home with them. The two tapers also represent that each person remains a unique individual and has gifts to bring to the marriage.

The other aspect of the Unity Candle is that the ceremony can be repeated on special occasions such as anniversaries, renewal of vows, or the arrival of a child.

The Unity candle ceremony involves setting up candle holders for a central pillar candle, and two taper candles. During the ceremony each spouse lights a taper from a pre-lit votive or tea candle (in a holder) and together light the large pillar candle. Separate candle holders can be used, or a all-in-one unity candlestick like the one below can be used. After the ceremony, the candles are extinguished and taken home. CAUTION: this ceremony is not recommended for use with children.

Before, during, and after the candles are lit readings, vows, prayers, poems, etc. can be said to enhance the experience and meaningfulness of the sharing of the flame.

Possible vows during the lighting of the Unity Candle may be:

“I vow to share my light and warmth with you now and forever.”

“By sharing this flame I give you my light and love, so that together we shine brightly.”

“May this shared flame bring us hope and happiness as we begin our lives together.”

...and any others the couple may wish to say.

As well as the individual vows, the officiant can say something like the following, found at (<https://ablueridgewedding.com/unity-candle-ceremony-wording-weddings/>):

### *Unity Candle I*

The two outside candles \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are lighting represent all they were, all they are and all they will ever be.

They are two distinct lights, symbolizing not only the families that brought them to this moment, but also the two unique individuals entering into the sacred bond of matrimony.

As they each take a candle and together light the center one, it now represents the coming together of two lives in a marriage relationship. As this one light cannot be divided, neither shall their union be divided.

A marriage neither results in two distinct personalities, nor the complete surrender of individuals into a partnership. Rather it is a relationship that strengthens the individual through love, honor and respect.

### *Unity Candle II*

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the two outside candles burning here represent your lives at this moment. Each light is distinct, each able to go its separate way. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are two persons; unique, complex, individual human beings. And the same Creator who gave each of you your individuality and uniqueness is now giving you to each other. The mystery shall be fulfilled. The two shall become one flesh. From now on, what each of you have been individually, you will become together. What will touch your lives as individuals will become a part of a new unity. As each of you take a candle, carry the flame to the center candle, and extinguish the small candle, thus let the center fire represent the new unity being celebrated in this service. As the one center light cannot be divided, neither can your lives. May the one in whose name you are joined, who worked in your lives as individuals, continue to walk with you in your life together.

### *Unity Candle III*

The two outside candles have been lighted to represent both your lives in this moment. They are two distinct lights, each capable of going their separate ways. To bring bliss and happiness to your home, there must be the merging of these two lights into one light. From now on your thoughts shall be for each other rather than your individual selves. Your plans shall

be mutual, your joys and sorrows shall be shared alike. As you each take a candle and together light the center one, you will extinguish your own candles, thus letting the center candle represent the union of your lives into one flesh. As this one light cannot be divided, neither shall your lives be divided but a united testimony in your home. May the radiance of this one light be a testimony of your unity.

#### *Unity Candle IV*

(There are four candles. Only one is lit, the tallest one standing behind a lower, but perhaps wider candle, two unlit candles are in holders on either side.)

One candle has been lit before and above all others, the candle which represents the presence of the divine in our lives. Together you will each take a candle and light it from the divinity candle. All that each of you have ever been, are now, or ever will be, is grounded in the presence of the divine. Together you will light the center candle from your separate lights, symbolizing that you bring your light, and the divine light to this marriage. All lights will remain lit as a testimony that divinity will shine through your marriage and through your own individual lives. Let your lights shine.

#### *Unity Candle V*

The candles which \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ now light represents the coming together of their two lives in a marriage relationship. Their two individual candles continue burning. In the same way, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will continue to be two unique individuals in the midst of their marriage.

EXAMPLE OF A UNITY CANDLE HOLDER (LENOX CHINA).

